

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 311520Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4738

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS ANKARA 6684

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, TU, US

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REPORTS ON DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY: OVER LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND COMMEMORATING VICTORY OVER GREEKS IN 1922, STATEMENT OF GOT LEADERS ABOUT DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) AND RELATIONS WITH US WERE FEATURED IN SEVERAL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. AMONG HIGHLIGHTS WAS STATEMENT BY FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL THAT US ARMS "EMBARGO HAS BEEN LIFTED." END SUMMARY.

2. POPULAR DAILY "HURRIYET" AUGUST 29 REPORTED FROM NEW YORK THAT US SENATE "WILL BEGIN DEBATES" IN MID-SEPTEMBER ON DCA AND THAT DCA IS "PRESIDENT FORD'S MAJOR WEAPON IN THE NOVEMBER 2 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS." HOWEVER, "HURRIYET" CONTINUED, CHANCES FOR SENATE OR HOUSE APPROVAL OF DCA ARE NIL BECAUSE OF "GREEK LOBBY WHICH IS WELL-ORGANIZED AND WHICH ACCELERATED ITS ACTIVITIES ON THIS SUBJECT SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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MONTHS AGO." "HURRIYET" ALSO SAID PRESIDENT FORD WILL ACCUSE

DEMOCRATS AND JIMMY CARTER, WHO ARE INFLUENCED BY GREEK LOBBY, OF REDUCING US TO SECOND-RATE POWER IF DCA IS REJECTED.

3. LIBERAL DAILY "MILLIYET" AUGUST 29 QUOTED FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AS SAYING THAT DCA "HAS BEEN TAKEN UP BY CONGRESS. THE DAYS FOR DEBATES IN THE SENATE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED" AND THAT PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION FOR \$125 MILLION FMS CREDITS IN FY 76 HAS BEEN SIGNED. CONTINUING, CAGLAYANGIL SAID FMS CREDITS FOR FY 76 AND 77 "ARE VALID AND IN FORCE UNTIL OUR AGREEMENT IS RATIFIED AND HAS TAKEN FORCE. IF THE AGREEMENT IS RATIFIED BY CONGRESS AND ALSO APPROVED BY THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT WILL REPLACE THE PARTS CONCERNING TURKEY IN THE 1976 AND 1977 MILITARY AID ACTS. THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING 1976 GO OUT OF FORCE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER UNDER THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION."

4. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY "TERCUMAN" PUBLISHED AUGUST 30, COMMENTING ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS, CAGLAYANGIL SAID: "DURING MY CONTACTS IN NEW YORK (DURING UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATES) I OBSERVED THAT US LEADERS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE MAINTENANCE AND PROMOTION OF THESE RELATIONS, NO MATTER WHICH PARTY BECOMES THE RULING POWER AFTER THE ELECTIONS. . . AS YOU KNOW, THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN LIFTED. IN FACT, THE 1976 AND 1977 MILITARY AID BILLS, EACH OF WHICH ACCORDS TURKEY \$125 MILLION IN MILITARY AID, TOOK FORCE TWO DAYS AGO, HAVING BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE PRESIDENT. OUR PURCHASE ORDERS WITHIN THESE LIMITS HAVE BEEN HANDED TO THE USA."

5. "TERCUMAN" ALSO PICKED UP REPORTS FROM ATHENS NEWSPAPERS "TO VIMA" AND "AKROPOLIS" THAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS SUBMITTED REPORT TO CONGRESS URGING RATIFICATION OF DCA'S WITH TURKEY AND GREECE (SIC). "TERCUMAN" CLAIMED "PENTAGON HAS ALSO ASKED CONGRESSMEN NOT TO HAVE VOTE (READ POLITICAL) CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND WHEN VOTING ON THESE AGREEMENTS." MACOMBER

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